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*The Last Link. Our Present Knowledge of the Descent of Man.* By ERNST HAECKEL (Jena). With Notes and Biographical Sketches by Hans Gadow. London : Adam and Charles Black, 1898. 16°, 4 ll., 156 pp.

This little book consists primarily of an address by the veteran evolutionist of Jena, delivered on August 26, 1898, at the Fourth International Congress of Zoölogy in Cambridge, under the title "On our Present Knowledge of the Descent of Man." It is opened by an introduction apparently picturing present opinion on the general subject of evolution in Europe, especially on the continent ; and, in view of the eminent abilities of the author and his fame as a leading exponent of evolutionary doctrine abroad, it may be worth while for American students to glance back at the leading lines of a picture which recalls conditions existing in this country about a generation ago :

During the forty years which have elapsed since Darwin's first publication of his theories an enormous literature, discussing the *general problems* of transformism as well as its special application to man, has been published. In spite of the wide divergence of the different views, all agree in one main point : the natural development of man cannot be separated from general transformism. There are only two possibilities. Either all the various species of animals and plants have been created independently by supernatural forces (and in this case the creation of man also is a miracle), or the species have been produced in a natural way by transmutation, by adaptation, and progressive heredity (and in this case man also is descended from other vertebrates, and immediately from a series of primates). We are absolutely convinced that only the latter theory is fully scientific. To prove its truth, we have to examine critically the strength of the different arguments claimed for it. (Page 7.)

Proceeding on this platform, which is surprising only in the naïve assumption that it remains necessary at this end of the century, Haeckel develops his argument on lines similar to those pursued by Huxley in "Man's Place in Nature," with full reference to recently-discovered facts, especially those connected with the fossil *Pithecanthropus erectus* found in Java in 1894 by Dr Eugène Dubois ; this discovery forming the motive for the discussion as well as for its title. Throughout, the genus *Homo* is regarded from the standpoint of the zoölogist alone, with no recognition of the collective and intellectual characteristics which most strongly demark man from the lower animals, and the ascent is regarded as following a single line from Lemures through Simiæ, Platyrrhinæ, Catarrhinæ, and Anthropidæ, with no distinction between the tailed line and that tailless line whence *Homo* must have sprung.

The phylogenetic tables and diagrams are mainly from the author's *Systematische Phylogenie der Vertebraten*.

The biographical sketches (of Lamarck, Saint-Hilaire, Cuvier, Baer Mueller, Virchow, Cope, Koelliker, Gegenbaur, and Haeckel) and Dr Gadow's notes on the "Theory of Cells," "Factors of Evolution," and "Geological Time and Evolution" occupy half the little volume. The last of these notes evinces a strong disposition to reduce geologic time, so far as may be, toward the orthodox chronologies represented by that of Archbishop Ussher, thus reflecting the state of opinion indicated in the introduction; and this tendency finds even more explicit utterance in the tabulation of the course of ascent from the anthropoid apes through *Pithecanthropus erectus* and the man of the reindeer epoch to "Adam and Eve."

The book is well printed in large type, on good paper, and neatly bound.

W J MCGEE.

*The Story of the British Race.* By JOHN MUNRO. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1899. 16°, 228 pp.

This recent addition to Appleton's "Library of Useful Stories" must attract readers desiring some brief yet trustworthy account of a world-shaping people. Beginning with a somewhat comprehensive introduction, the author passes to a definition of the European race, and thence to a description of the pioneers of Britain based on archeologic and historical records jointly; next he discusses the English and Welsh people and characterizes their types, and then gives similar treatment to the Scotch and Irish; the book ends with two chapters devoted, respectively, to "The Celtic Fringe" and "The Celtic Renaissance." In general, the work may be considered an abstract of the voluminous literature of a people who have inspired much writing, shaped by the effort to rectify history and pure literature in the light of physical anthropology; comparatively little attention is given to activital characteristics, or to that convergence of culture and blending of blood so conspicuously displayed by the vigorous peoples of the British Isles. The work contains no original contributions to knowledge, yet is a convenient summary of existing knowledge. The tone of the book is curiously pugnacious, and more arrogant than might reasonably be expected even from a recognized authority in anthropology; the preface is a challenge to historians and teachers, and later philologists, littérateurs, archeologists, and even anthropologists in general are freely flouted; so that the style would seem controversial, did not the adversaries change with the pages and eventually include nearly all contributors to the subject. The persistent pugnacity is incongruous in a